

In Convention of the Representatives of the  
State of New York, July 16.<sup>th</sup> 1776. —

Resolved unanimously that a secret Committee be appointed to  
devise and carry into Execution such measures as to them  
shall appear most effectual for obstructing the Channel of  
Hudsons River  
or annoying the Enemies Ships in their Navigation up  
the said River, and that this Convention pledges them-  
selves for defraying the charges incident thereon. And  
Resolved & ordered that M<sup>r</sup>. Jay M<sup>r</sup>. Robert States Major  
Tappen, M<sup>r</sup>. Robert R Livingston <sup>or M<sup>r</sup>. Paulding</sup> and M<sup>r</sup>. Gilbert Livingston  
be the said Committee —

July 17.<sup>th</sup>

Resolved that the Commissioners who superintend the Building  
of Ships at Poughkeepsie would be justified in suspending  
that work and suffering the Carpenters and others employed  
thereon to labour under the direction of the secret Committee  
of this Convention, on such Vessels or works as they may  
think proper to build & erect for the defence of Hudsons  
River.

Resolved that the Commissioners would be justified  
in suffering the materials intended for the purpose of building the  
Continental Ships to be employed by the secret Committee in such  
a manner as to them shall seem best calculated for executing the  
Trust reposed in them.

Resolved that this Convention will immediately apply to the  
Honorable the Congress for their Approbation of this Measure.

Resolved that the Commissioners of the Continental Ships, and  
Captains Lawrence and Tudor be immediately furnished  
with a Copy of these Resolutions.

Resolved that



Resolved that the Secret Committee have power to impress  
Boats, Ketches, Teams Waggon's Horses and Drivers when  
they shall find it necessary for the public Service, as  
well as to call out the Militia if Occasion should require.

Resolved that the Treasurer of this State be ordered to  
furnish the Gentlemen of the Secret Committee with the sum  
of five Thousand Pounds in Advance in order to enable ~~him~~  
them to expedite the important Business with which  
they are entrusted.

Extracts from the Minutes.

John McKesson Secy.



Instructions to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Robert Livingston and Robert Yates

1<sup>st</sup>

You are to purchase at the cheapest rate you can three old Sloops, and send them down to Poughkeepsie

2<sup>dy</sup> Procure a Quantity of pine knots, and other light wood and send it down in those Sloops.

3<sup>dy</sup> Purchase a quantity not exceeding 100 Barrels of Saw Pitch and Turpentine also about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Ton of oakum and fums of Rope.

4<sup>th</sup> Purchase or get made with all possible dispatch 100 oars 12 and 14 foot.

5<sup>th</sup> Procure as many good Pines as you can.

6<sup>th</sup> Purchase, hire or impress Two ~~fr~~ vessels, and order the same to be ~~fr~~ fitted out in an armed manner - for which purpose you are hereby authorized to purchase materials ammunition and stores, and to employ such men for the fitting out and manning those vessels as you may judge necessary.

7<sup>th</sup> You or either of you are requested to apply to Robert Livingston Esq<sup>r</sup> in order to engage with him to make as much Bar Iron of Two inches square as he can, until this Committee or any of its members should require him to stop, and to convey it down to his Landing, and that he acquaint Gilbert Livingston from time to time of the Quantity he ~~shall~~ may have made, and conveyed to his Landing.

8<sup>th</sup> You are hereby authorized and required to impress Teams Carriages Sloops and Horses and to call out Militiamen of the Militia and generally to do or cause to be done at your own expense all such matters and things as you may deem necessary or expedient to forward and complete the aforesaid Business committed to your care.

Poughkeepsie 22<sup>d</sup> July 1776

Robert Yates Chairman

Christ: Tappan

Robert Livingston

Gilbert Livingston

John Jay



It appearing by a Letter rec<sup>d</sup> Nov 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 to be the  
sentiments of the Committee that I should repair to New York  
to consult with Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington on matters relative to the fortifying  
Hudsons river & obstructing the navigation thereof I conceive it pro  
that Mr. Robert Gates sh<sup>d</sup> singly <sup>be</sup> sent up/ <sup>until</sup> another member of the secret  
committee sent up/ <sup>be</sup> to transact the business given to us in charge  
& that he sh<sup>d</sup> be vested with all the powers contained in the  
within Instructions —

Ch<sup>l</sup> Livingston

Ch<sup>l</sup> Livingston

Copy of the Committee  
approved by the Convention